

JAMES PATTERSON

# MAX RIDE

FIRST FLIGHT



BENNETT  
SANCHEZ  
PENNINGTON  
SANZ

005 **MARVEL**



JAMES PATTERSON

# MAX RIDE

F I R S T F L I G H T



**MAXIMUM RIDE** doesn't remember much about her past.

She remembers **THE SCHOOL**, a secret lab where **SCIENTISTS** experimented on her and her friends--Fang, Nudge, Iggy, Gasman, and Angel. She remembers the **ERASERS**, the half-human, half-wolf monsters who kept her prisoner. Most of all she remembers **JEB**, the man who gave his life to help **THE FLOCK** escape and find a life of peace...

Recently, Max, Angel, Iggy and Gazzy were captured, only to discover that **JEB WAS ALIVE AND WORKING** with the scientists again.

With some inside, psychic help--courtesy of Angel--Nudge and Fang sieged the school. During the escape, Max learned that the flock actually had parents and the **GENE-SPLICING THEY UNDERWENT TOOK PLACE IN THE WOMB!**

Tired of all the secrets, the Flock flew to New York in search of something called **THE INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING** to take the fight to them...

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IN THE SEWERS  
BENEATH  
NEW YORK CITY.

DEATH  
VALLEY. THE BOGS  
OF LONG ISLAND.  
THE NEW YORK  
CITY SEWER  
SYSTEM.

I'M  
JUST SAYING,  
WE NEVER GET TO GO  
ON A RECONNAISSANCE  
MISSION TO THE **SOUTH**  
OF FRANCE, YOU KNOW?  
NO REVENGE QUESTS  
TO HAWAII--

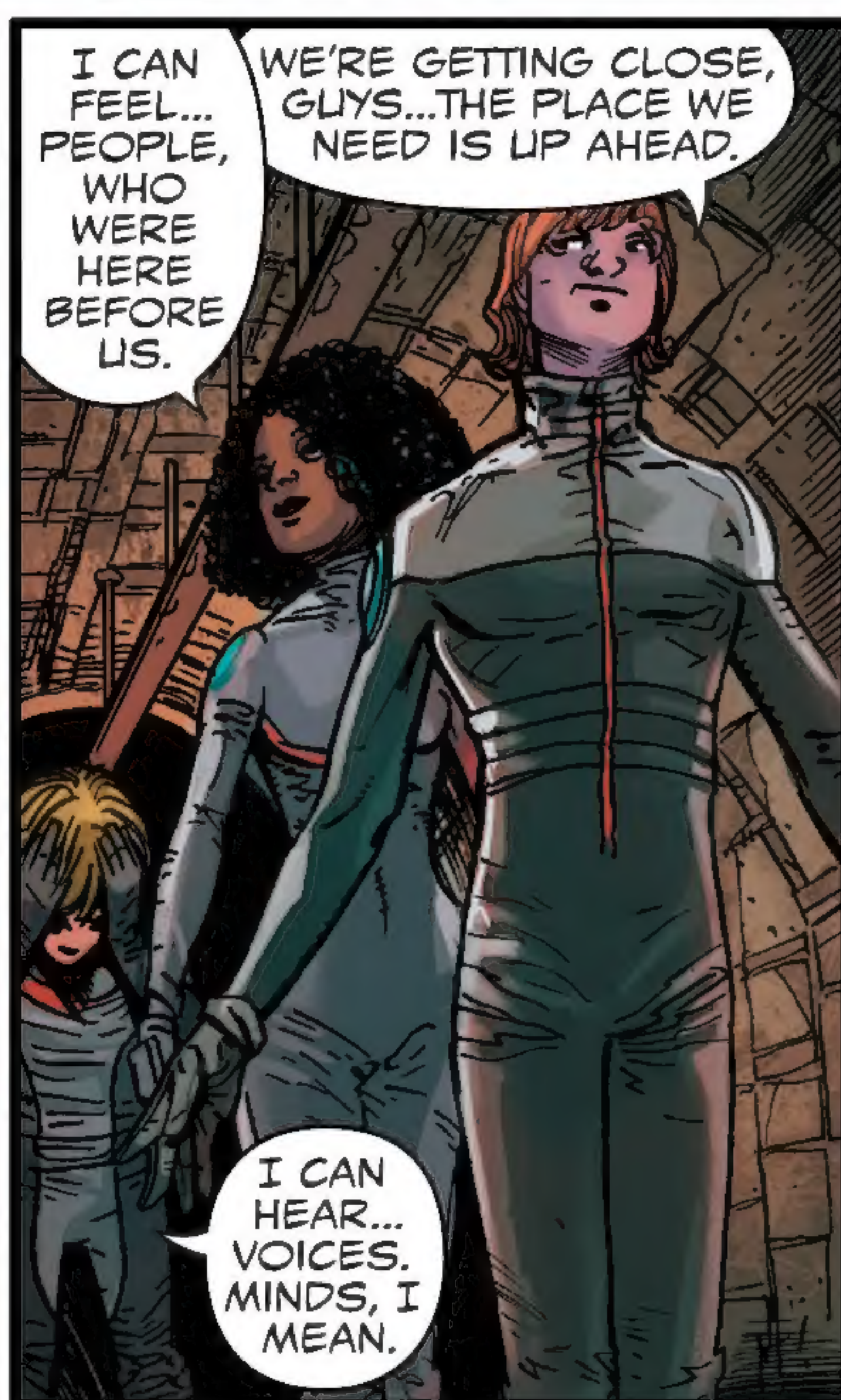


FANG, SHUT IT,  
OR I **WILL**  
FEED YOU TO A  
CROCODILE.

THOSE  
ARE A MYTH,  
RIGHT,  
IGGY?

SO  
ARE THE  
WINGED BIRD  
CHILDREN OF  
MANHATTAN.

TOUCHÉ.



I CAN  
FEEL...  
PEOPLE,  
WHO  
WERE  
HERE  
BEFORE  
US.

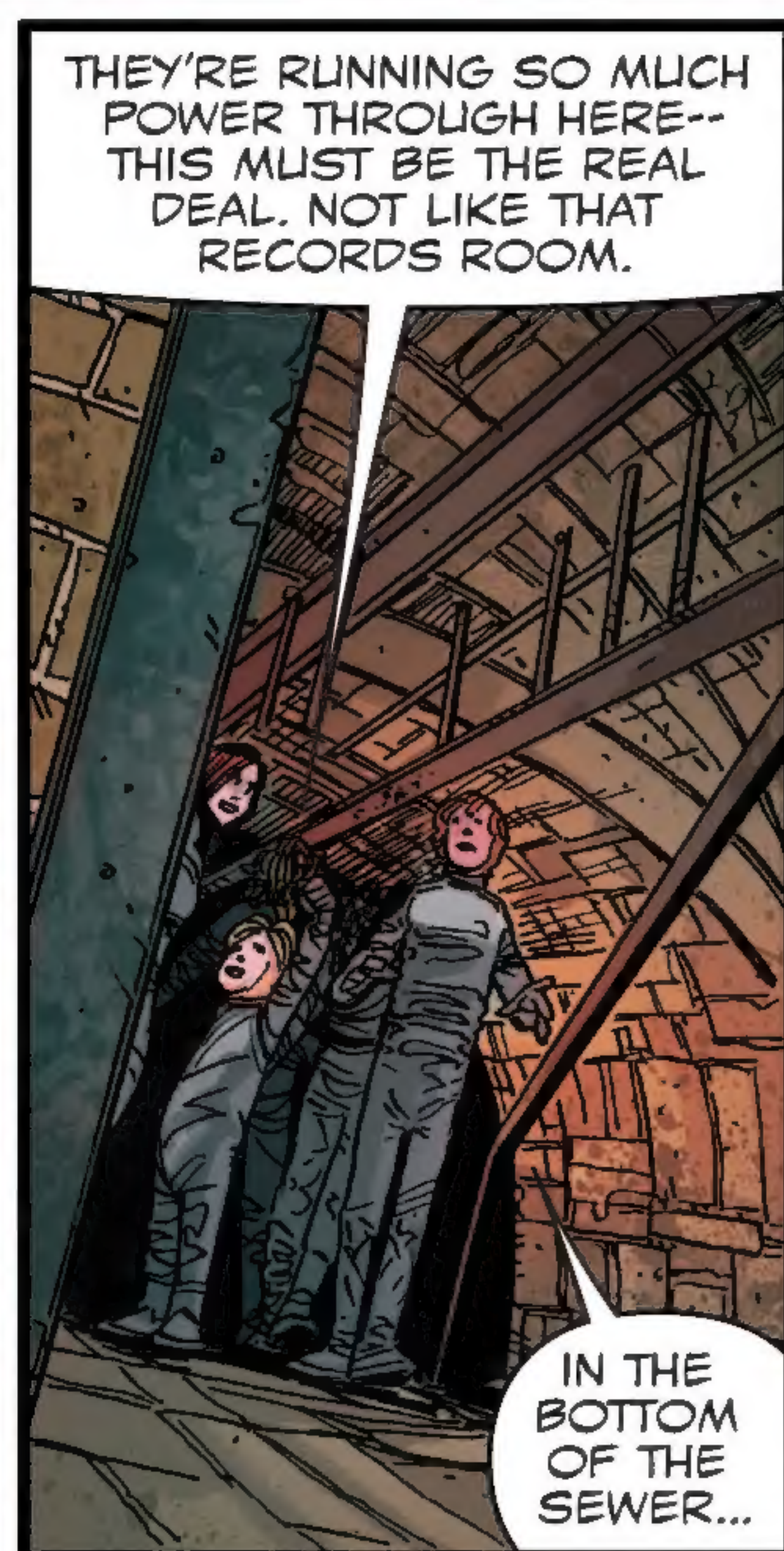
WE'RE GETTING CLOSE,  
GUYS...THE PLACE WE  
NEED IS UP AHEAD.

I CAN  
HEAR...  
VOICES.  
MINDS, I  
MEAN.



WHAT ARE  
THEY SAYING,  
ANGEL?

NOTHING...  
THEY'RE  
JUST SO  
SAD.



THEY'RE RUNNING SO MUCH  
POWER THROUGH HERE--  
THIS MUST BE THE REAL  
DEAL. NOT LIKE THAT  
RECORDS ROOM.

IN THE  
BOTTOM  
OF THE  
SEWER...





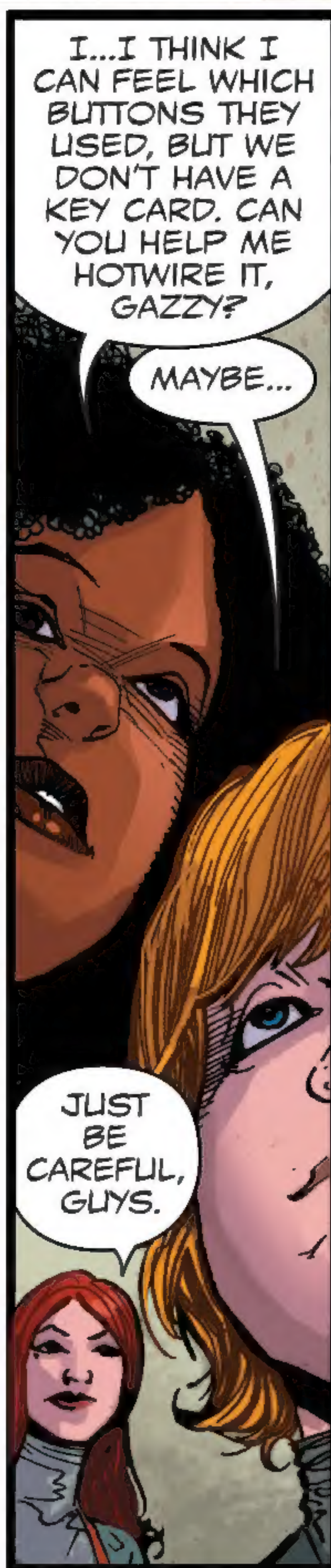
...THE  
INSTITUTE  
OF HIGHER  
LEARNING.

THAT'S  
A FANCY  
LOCK...



HOW ARE  
WE GONNA GET  
INSIDE?

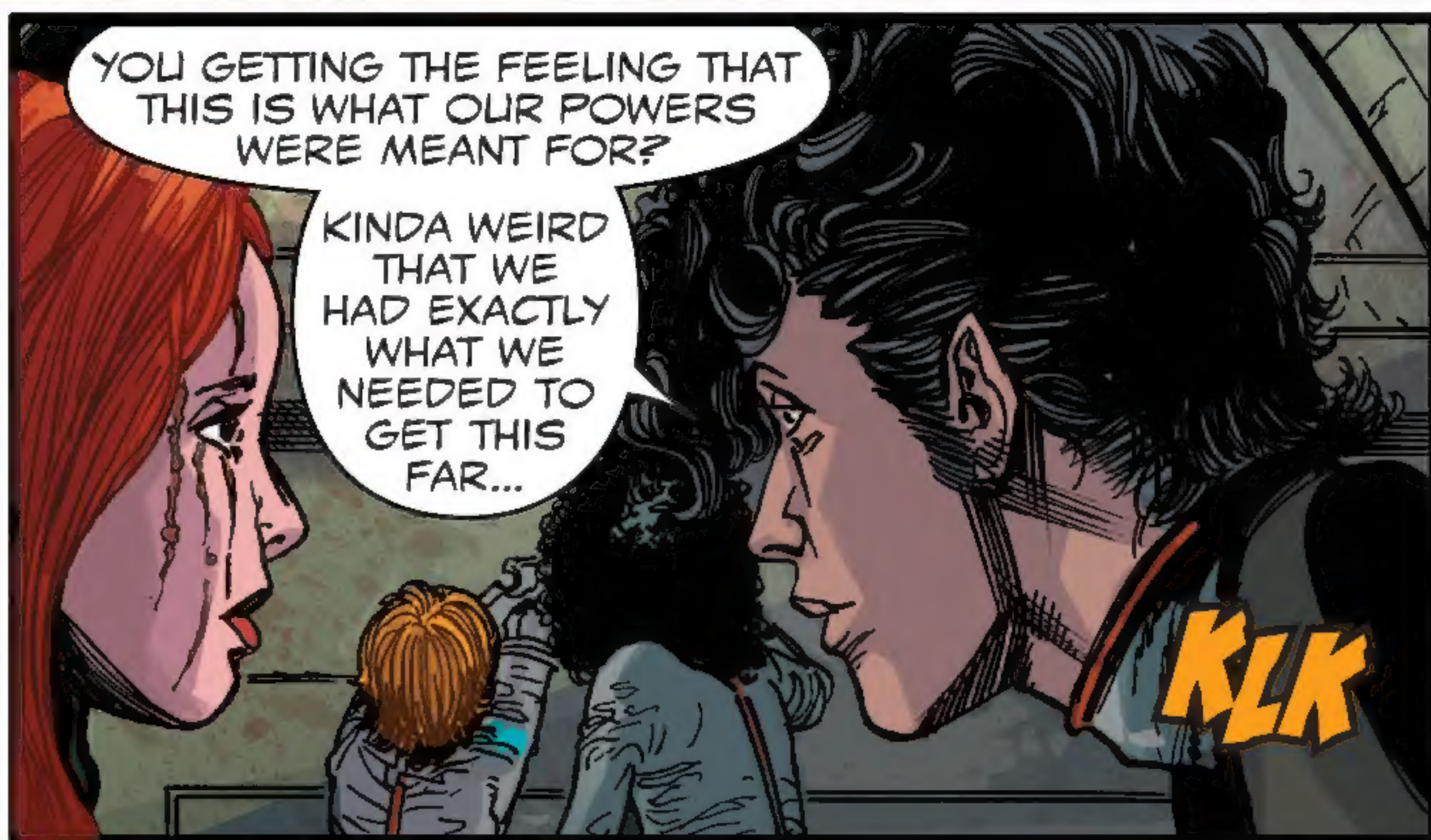
DON'T LOOK AT  
ME. I NAVIGATED  
US HERE. MY PART  
IN OPERATION  
CERTAIN DOOM  
IS DONE...GAZZY?  
NUDGE?



I...I THINK I  
CAN FEEL WHICH  
BUTTONS THEY  
USED, BUT WE  
DON'T HAVE A  
KEY CARD. CAN  
YOU HELP ME  
HOTWIRE IT,  
GAZZY?

MAYBE...

JUST  
BE  
CAREFUL,  
GUYS.



YOU GETTING THE FEELING THAT  
THIS IS WHAT OUR POWERS  
WERE MEANT FOR?

KINDA WEIRD  
THAT WE  
HAD EXACTLY  
WHAT WE  
NEEDED TO  
GET THIS  
FAR...



AND BY  
OUR POWERS  
COMBINED...



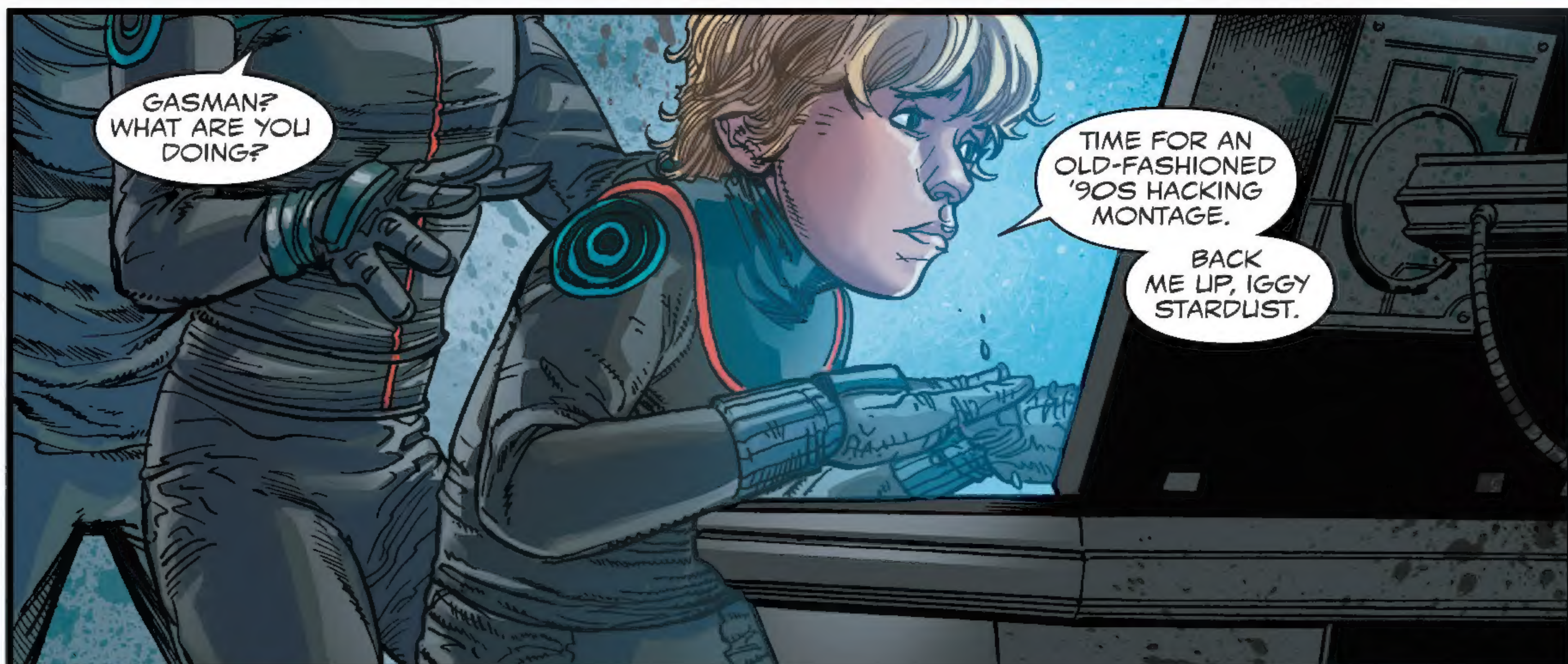


...A GIANT  
CREEPY  
UNDERGROUND  
LAIR.

NO SKULL  
THRONE. MISSED  
OPPORTUNITY.



THIS  
PLACE...IT WAS A  
LABORATORY.

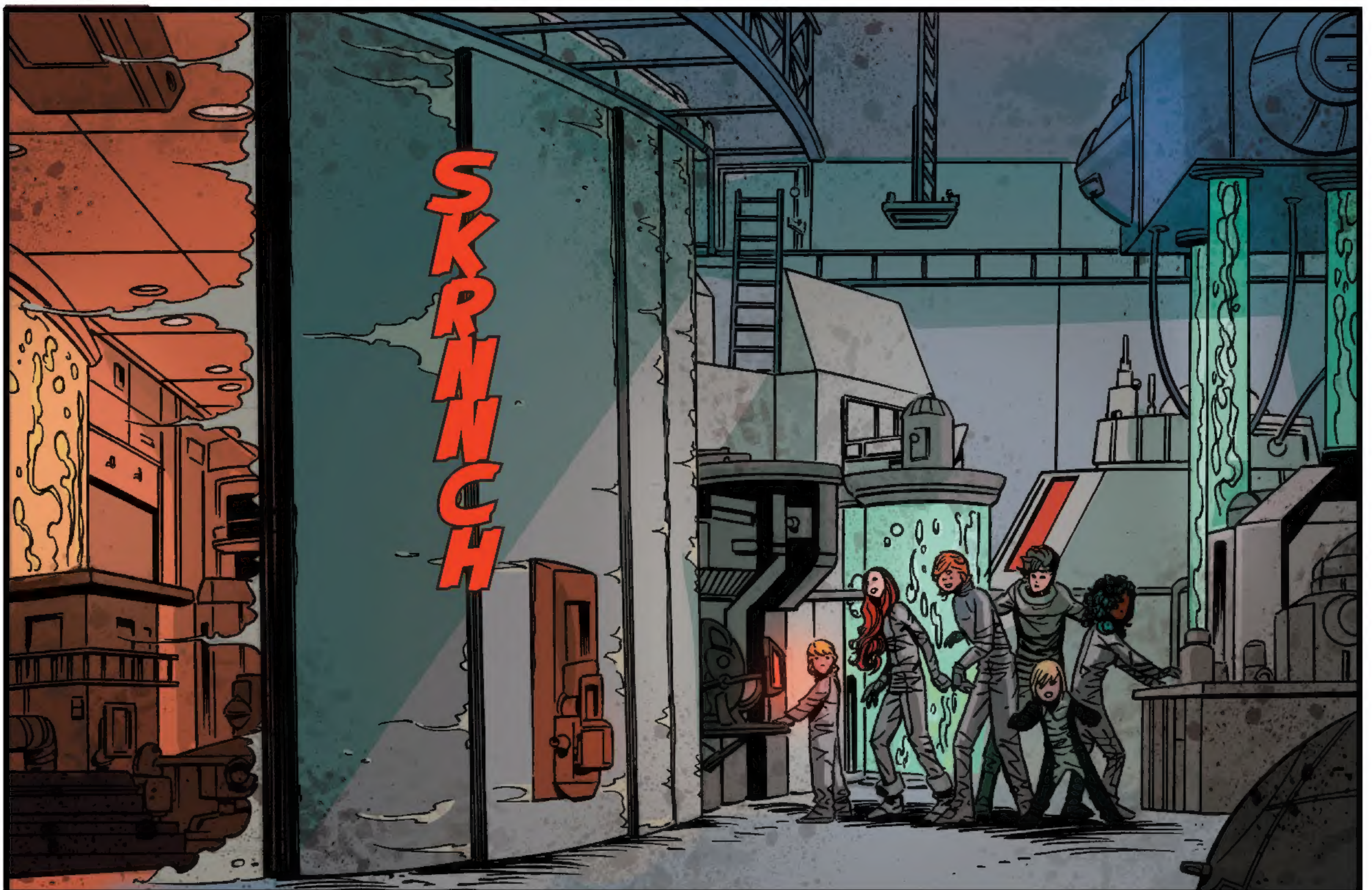
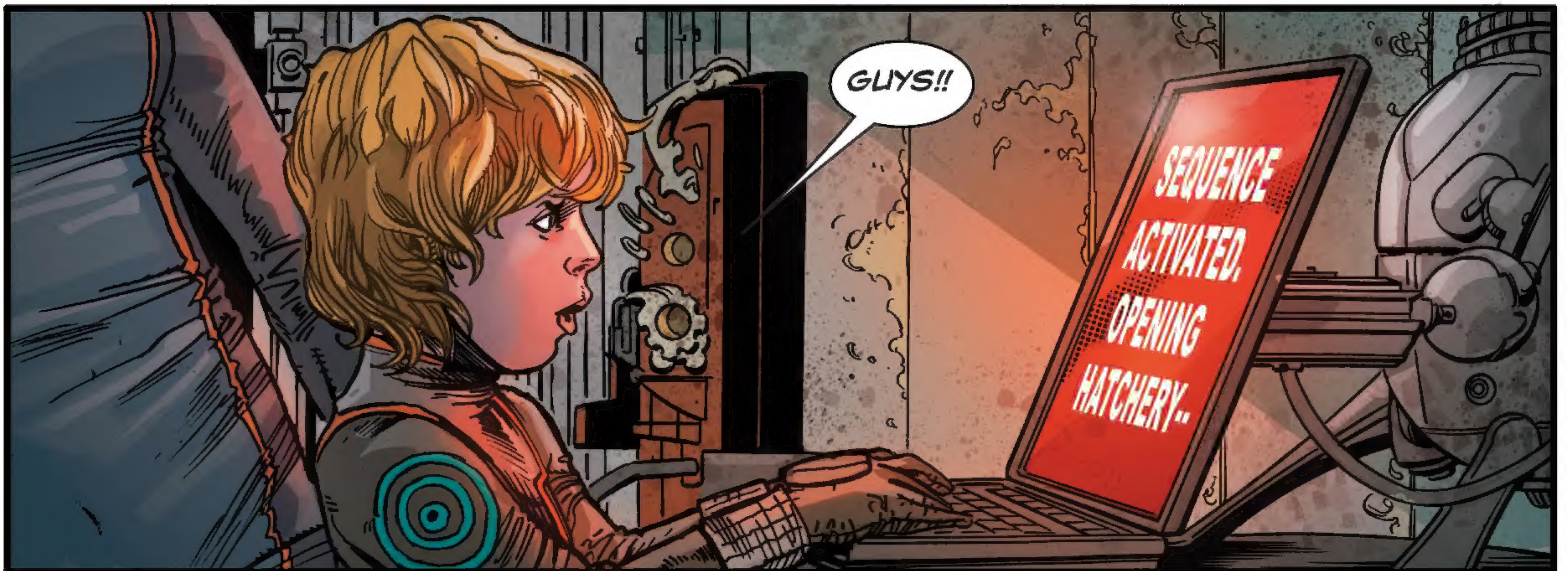


GASMAN?  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING?

TIME FOR AN  
OLD-FASHIONED  
'90S HACKING  
MONTAGE.

BACK  
ME UP, IGGY  
STARDUST.







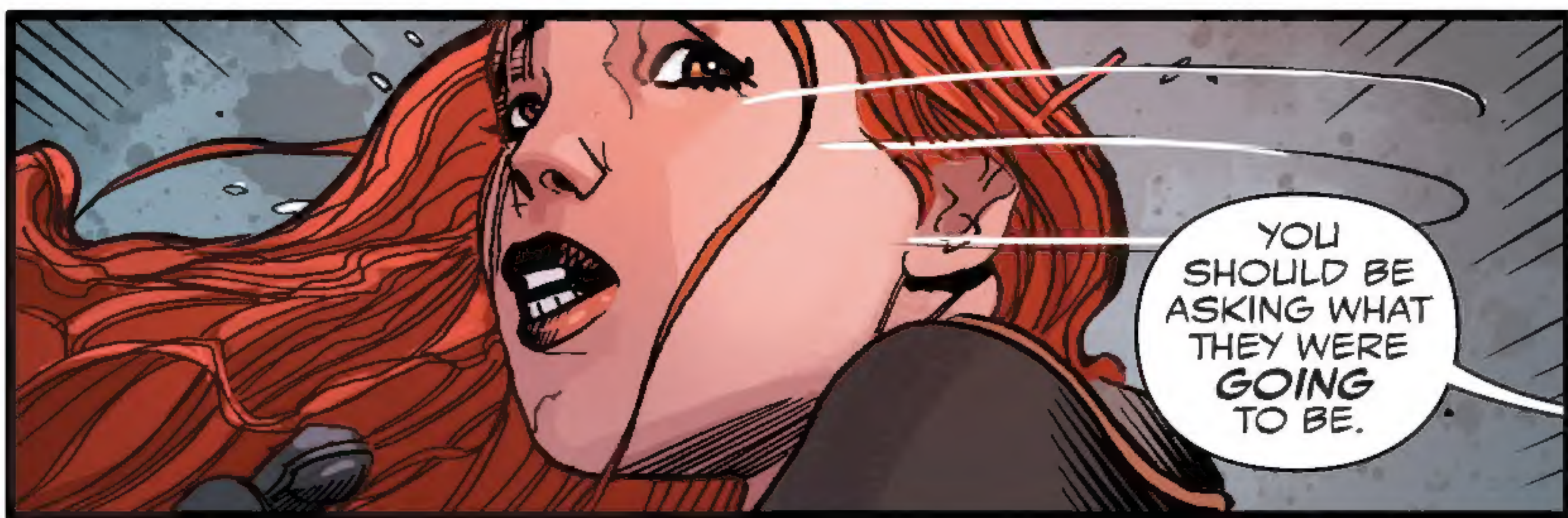


HATCHERY  
OPENED.





WHAT...  
ARE  
THEY?



YOU  
SHOULD BE  
ASKING WHAT  
THEY WERE  
**GOING**  
TO BE.



THESE  
ARE FAILED  
SPICES. **TRIAL**  
**RUNS.**  
SO YOU  
**RUNTS** COULD  
BE BORN.







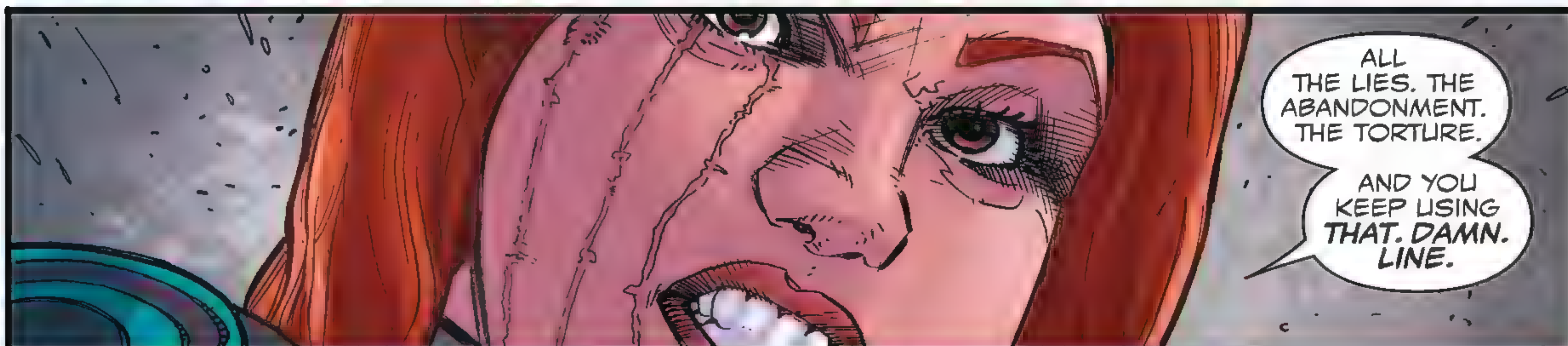
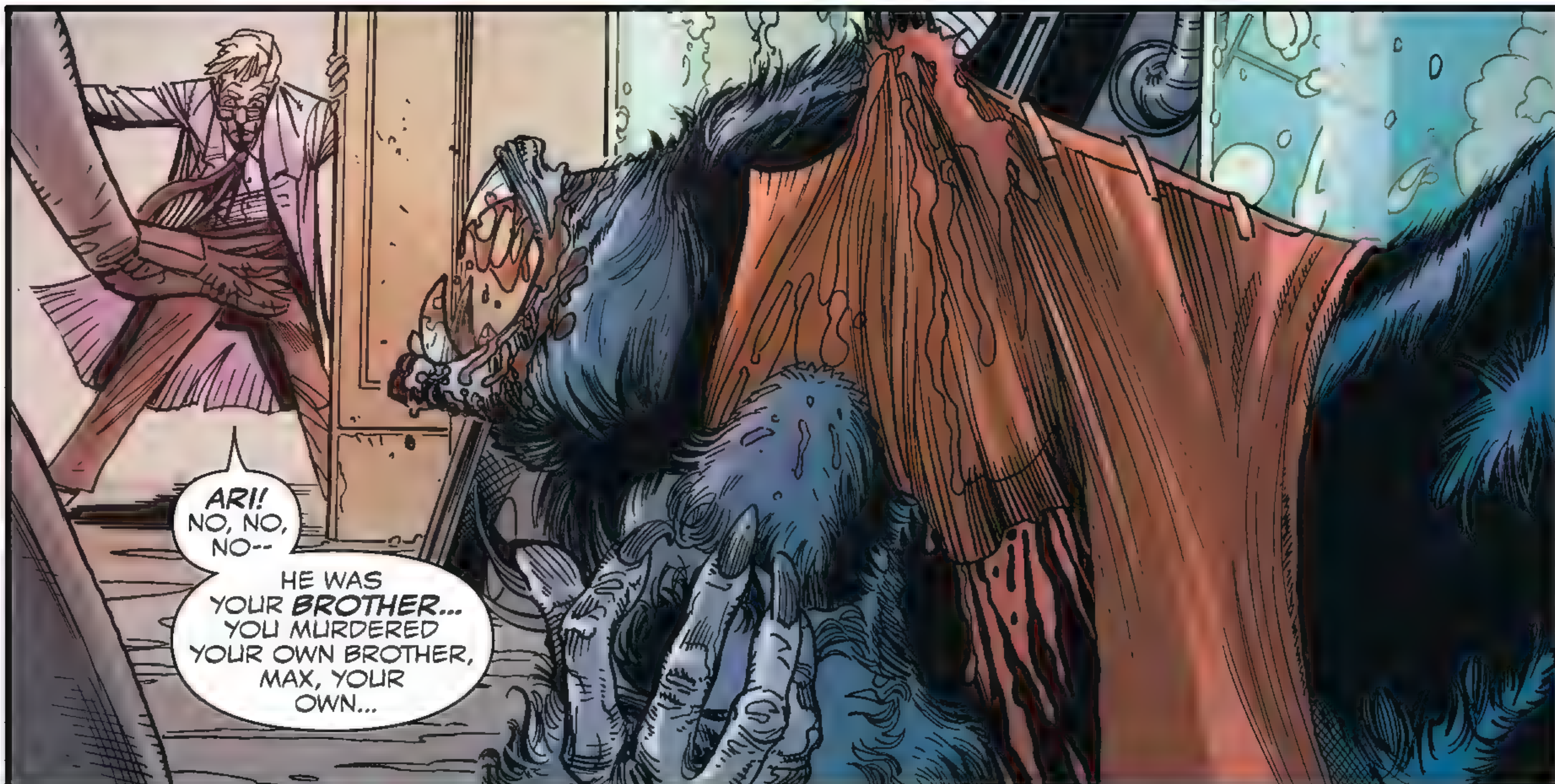






MAX!  
WHAT  
HAVE YOU  
DONE?!









NOT  
TO ARI. NOT  
TO ME.

YOU **MADE** US.  
YOU **MADE** US AND  
YOU TURNED US INTO  
**MONSTERS.**

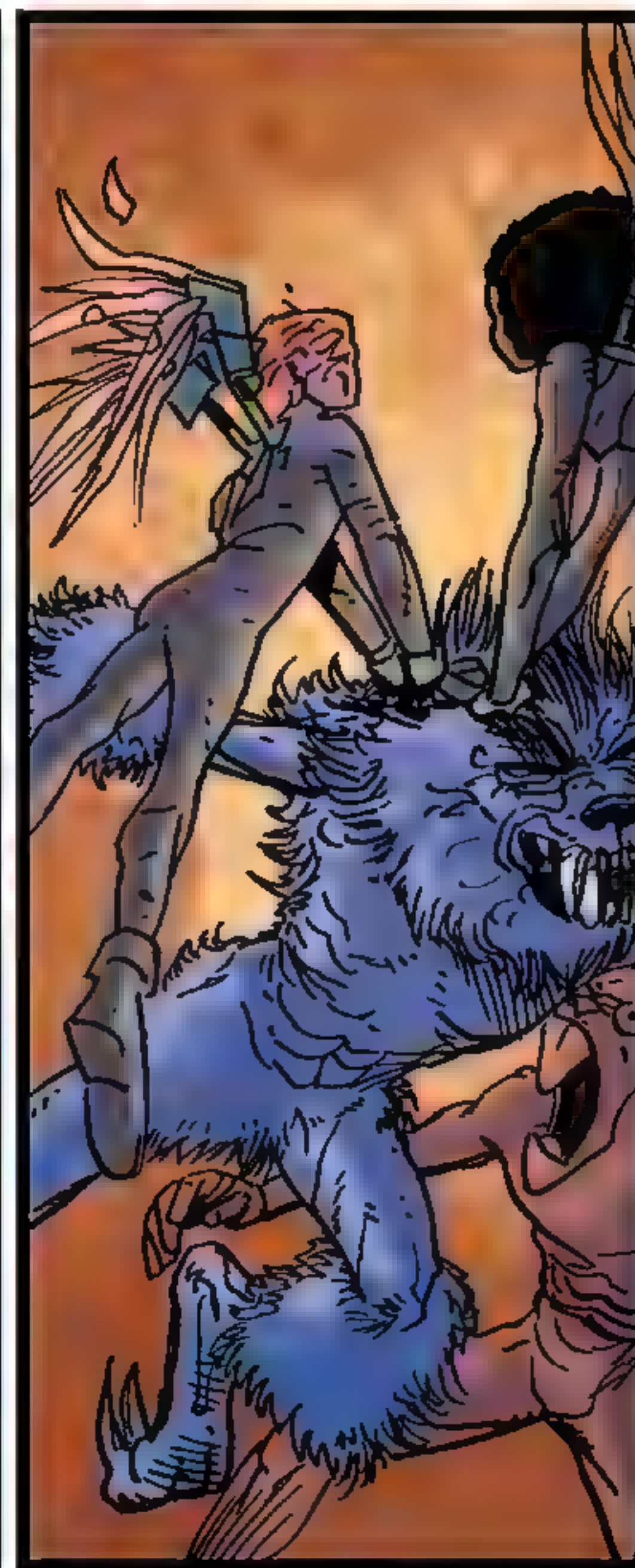
YOU NEVER  
**LOVED** US. YOU  
DON'T GET TO GRIEVE  
HIM, NOT AFTER YOU  
USED HIM. USED  
**ALL OF US** FOR  
YOUR **INSANE**  
**DREAM!**

YOU  
WANT TO  
SEE WHAT YOUR  
CHILDREN THINK  
OF YOU?

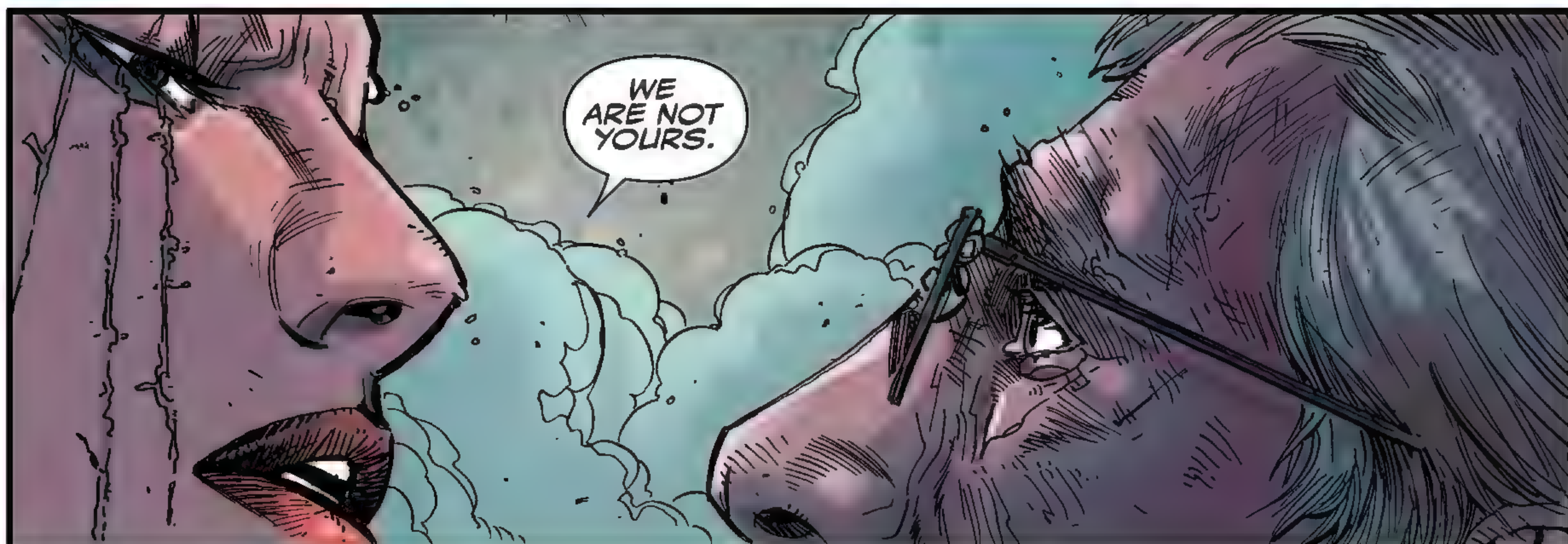
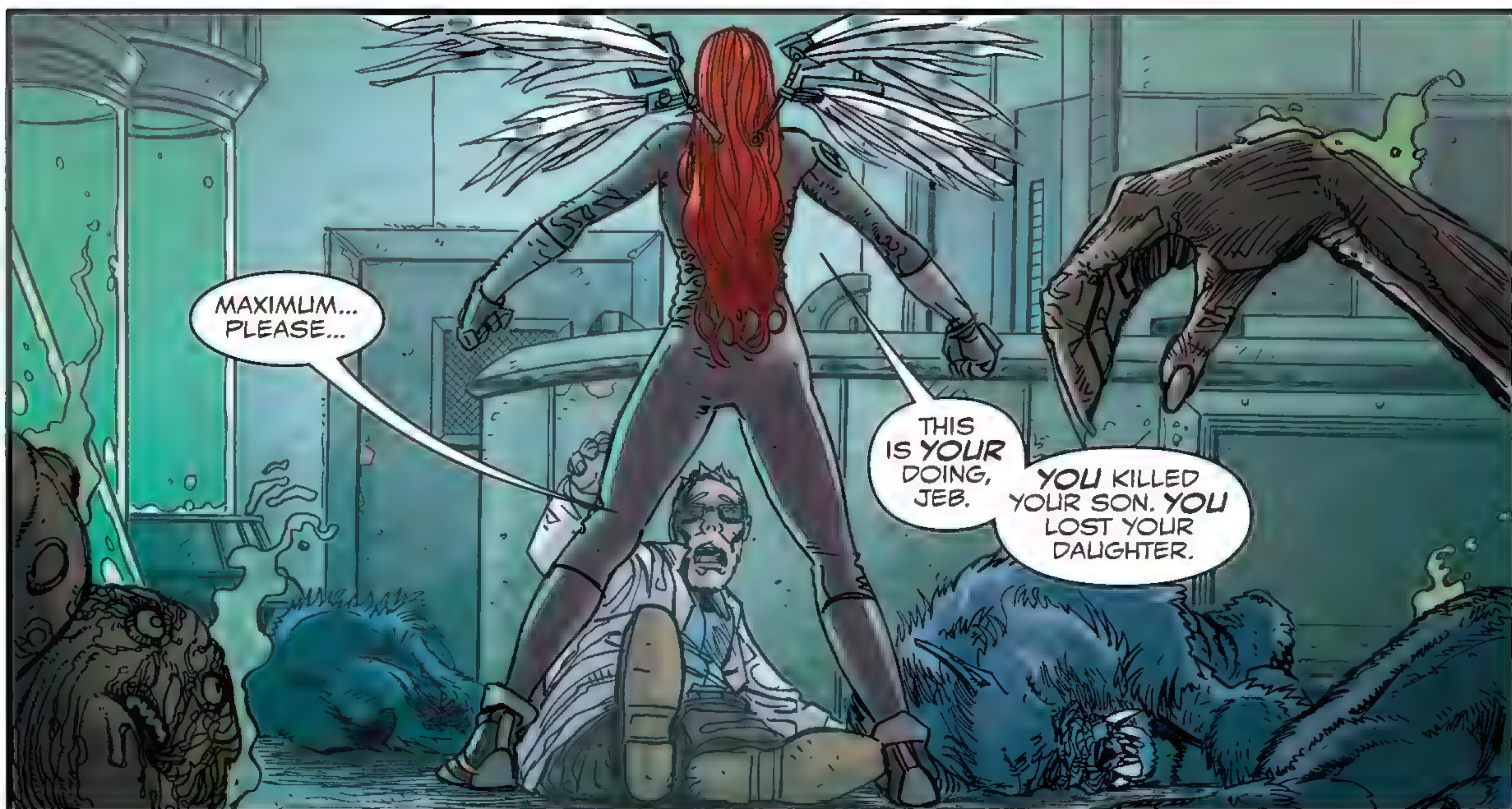


STEP  
RIGHT  
UP.













MAX!  
THIS  
WAY--

HEY...

I  
GOT YOU,  
OKAY?  
AND  
YOU GOT  
THIS.

MAX?

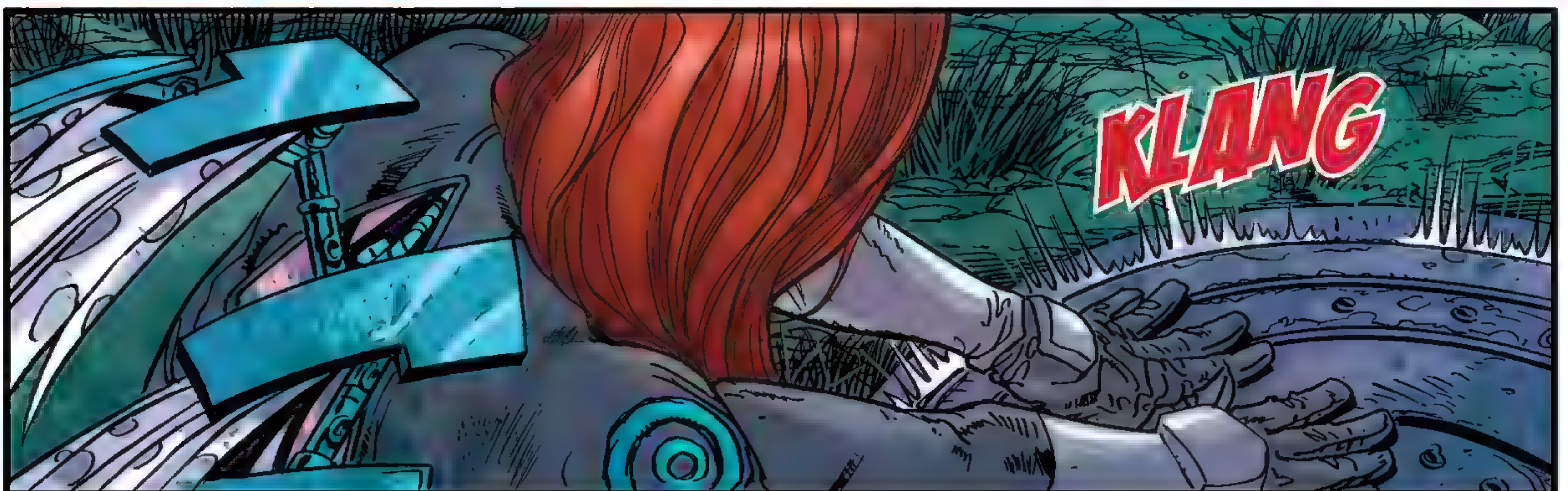
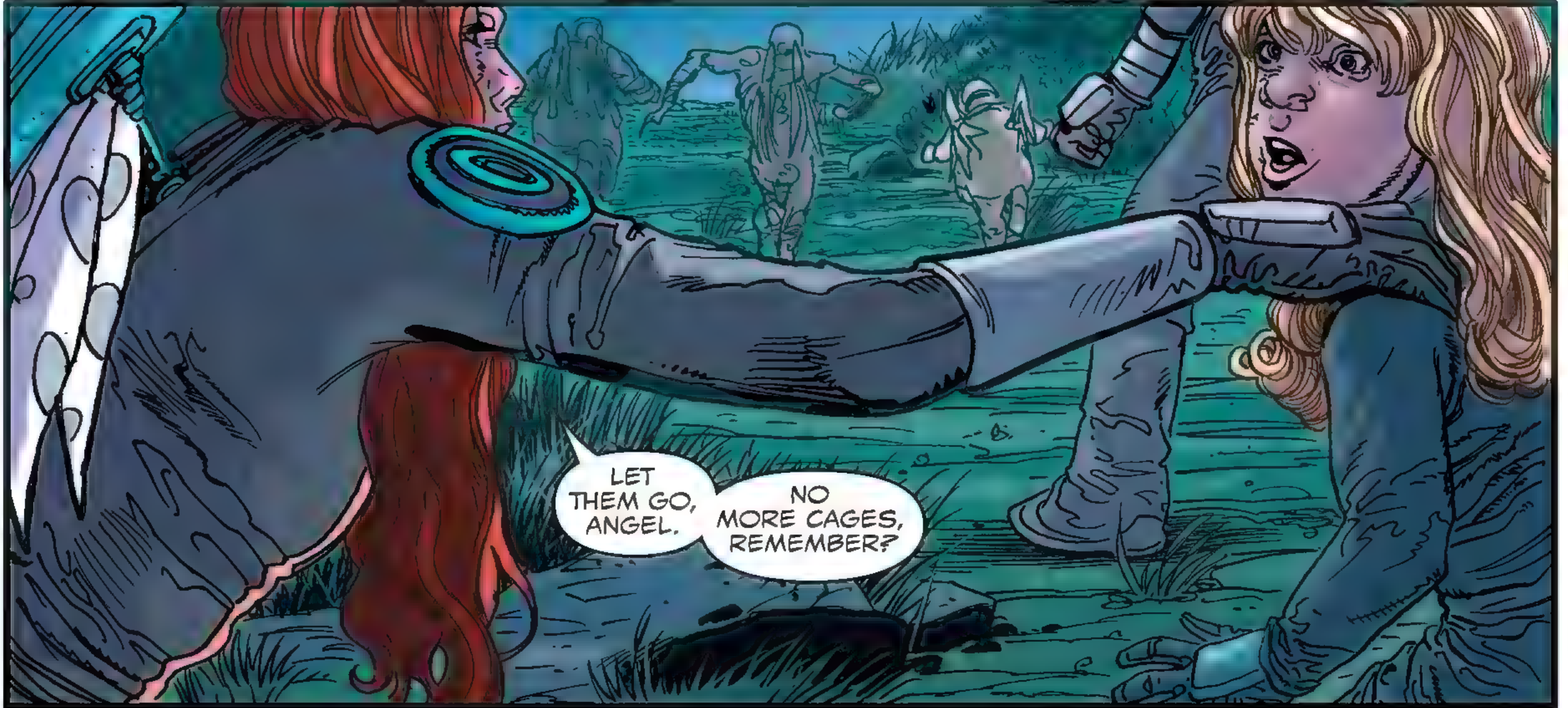
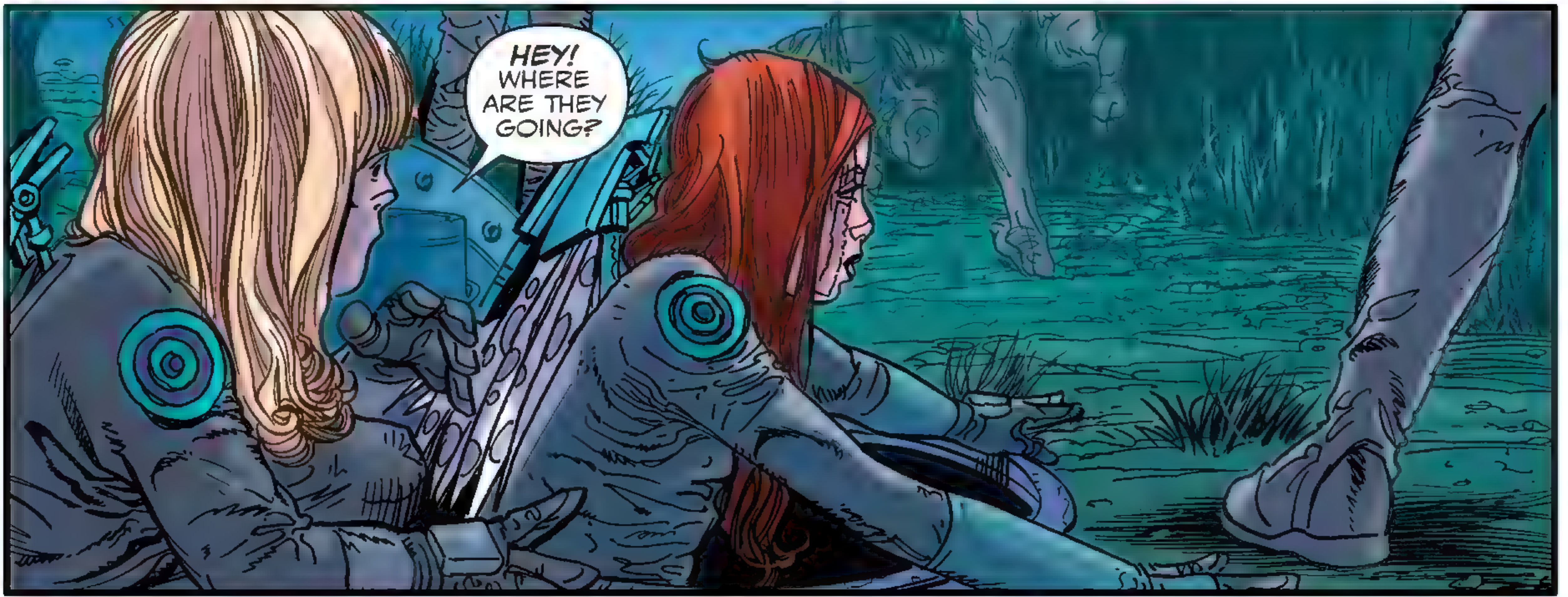
I  
CAN'T...I  
CAN'T TALK  
ABOUT IT,  
FANG.

"I CAN'T FEEL  
ANYTHING  
RIGHT NOW."

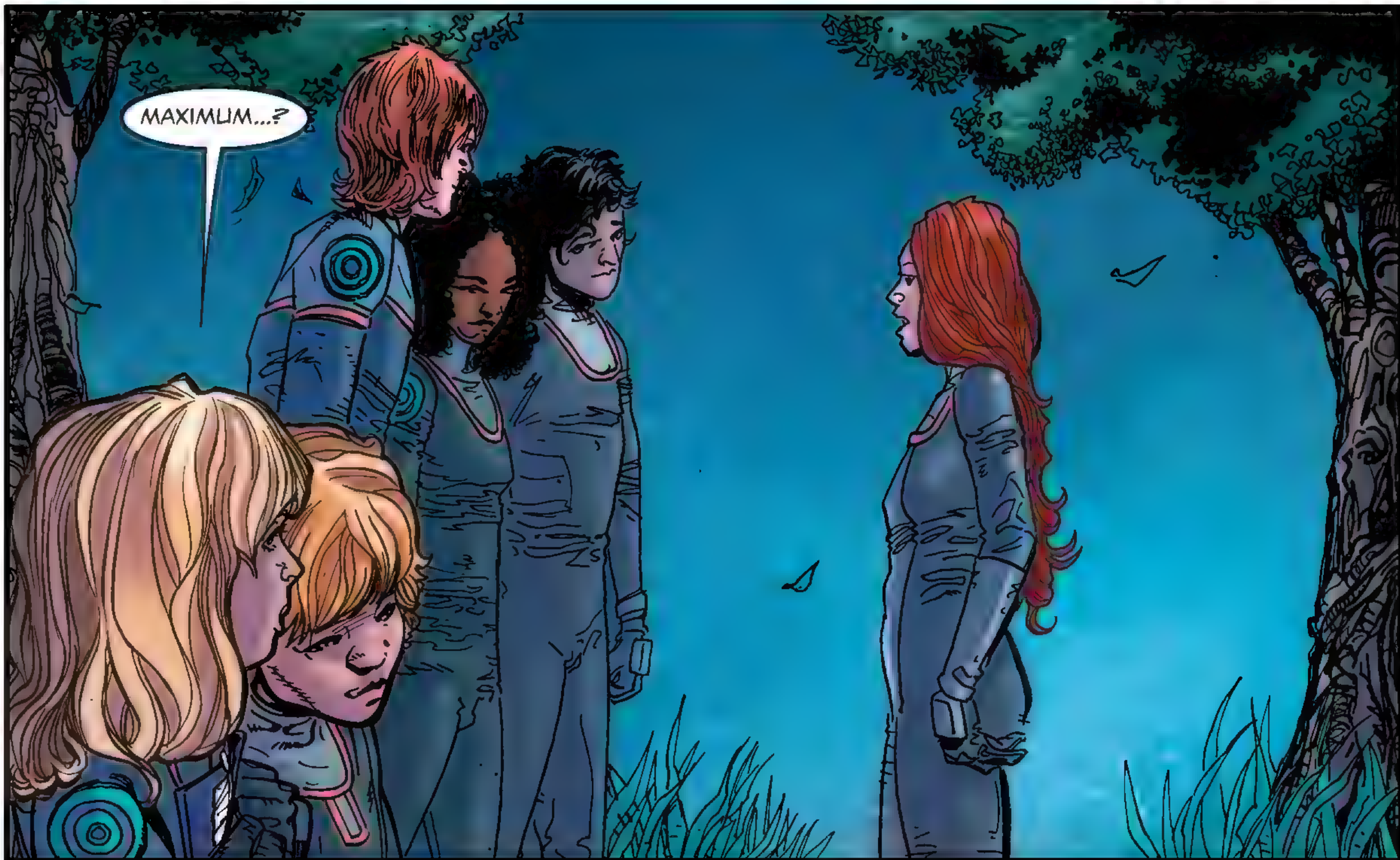
"IT'S  
OKAY."

"IT'LL BE  
OKAY."





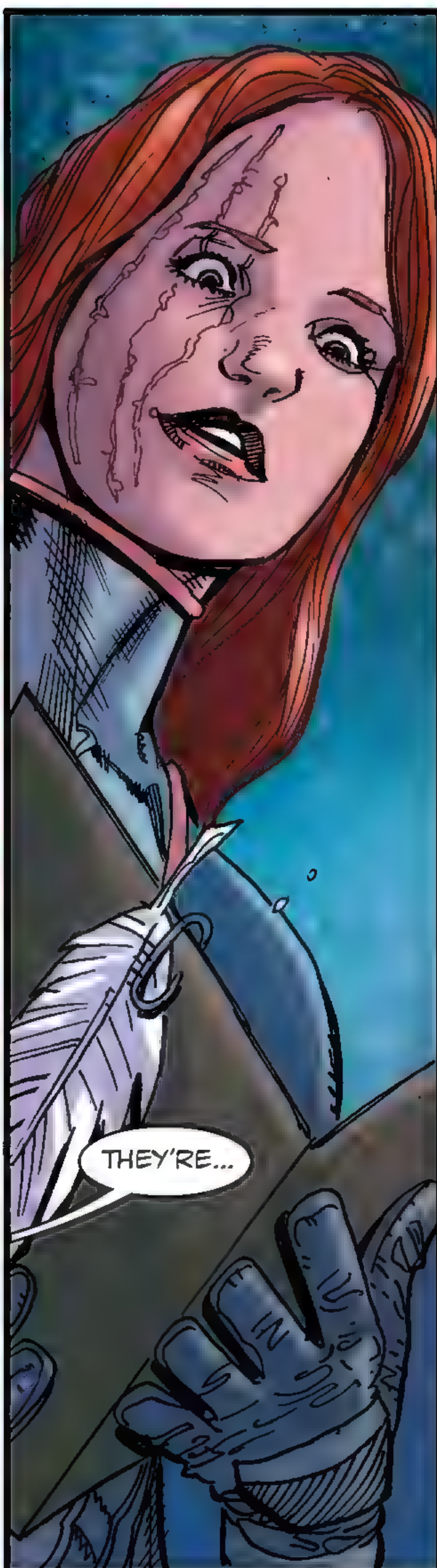




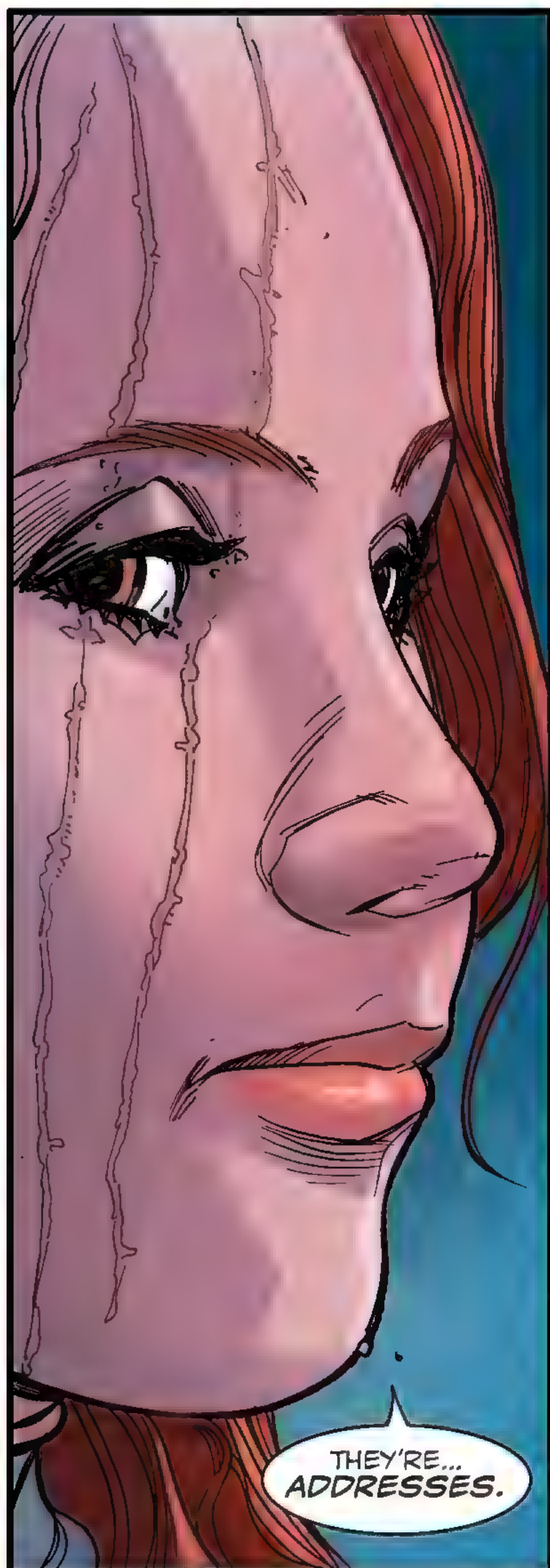
MAXIMUM...?



WE  
FOUND  
THIS...

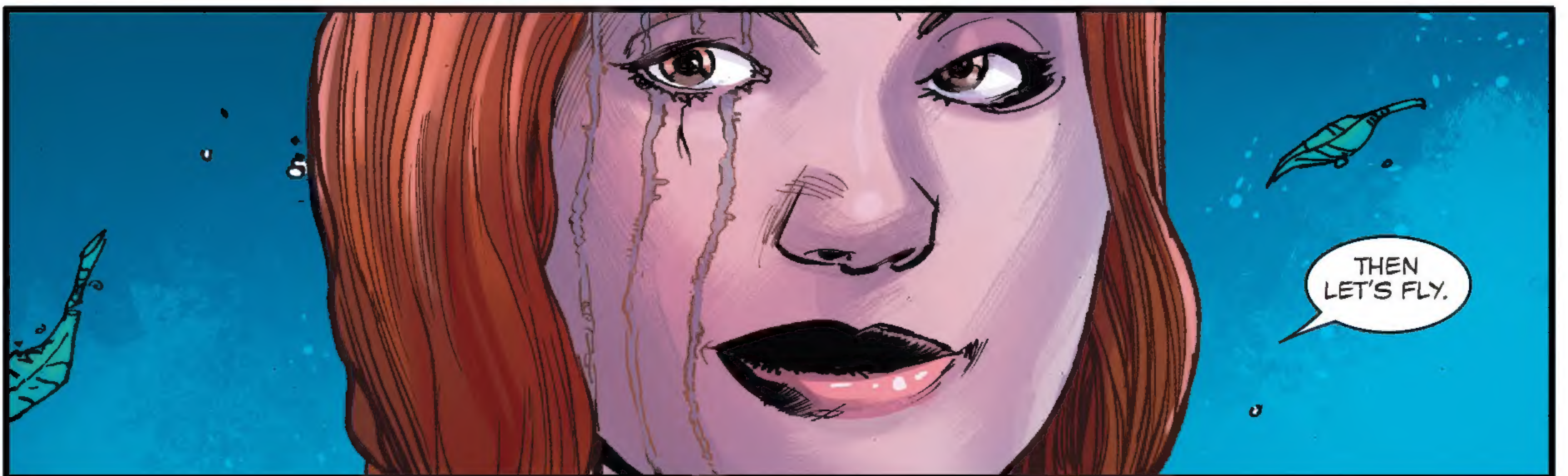
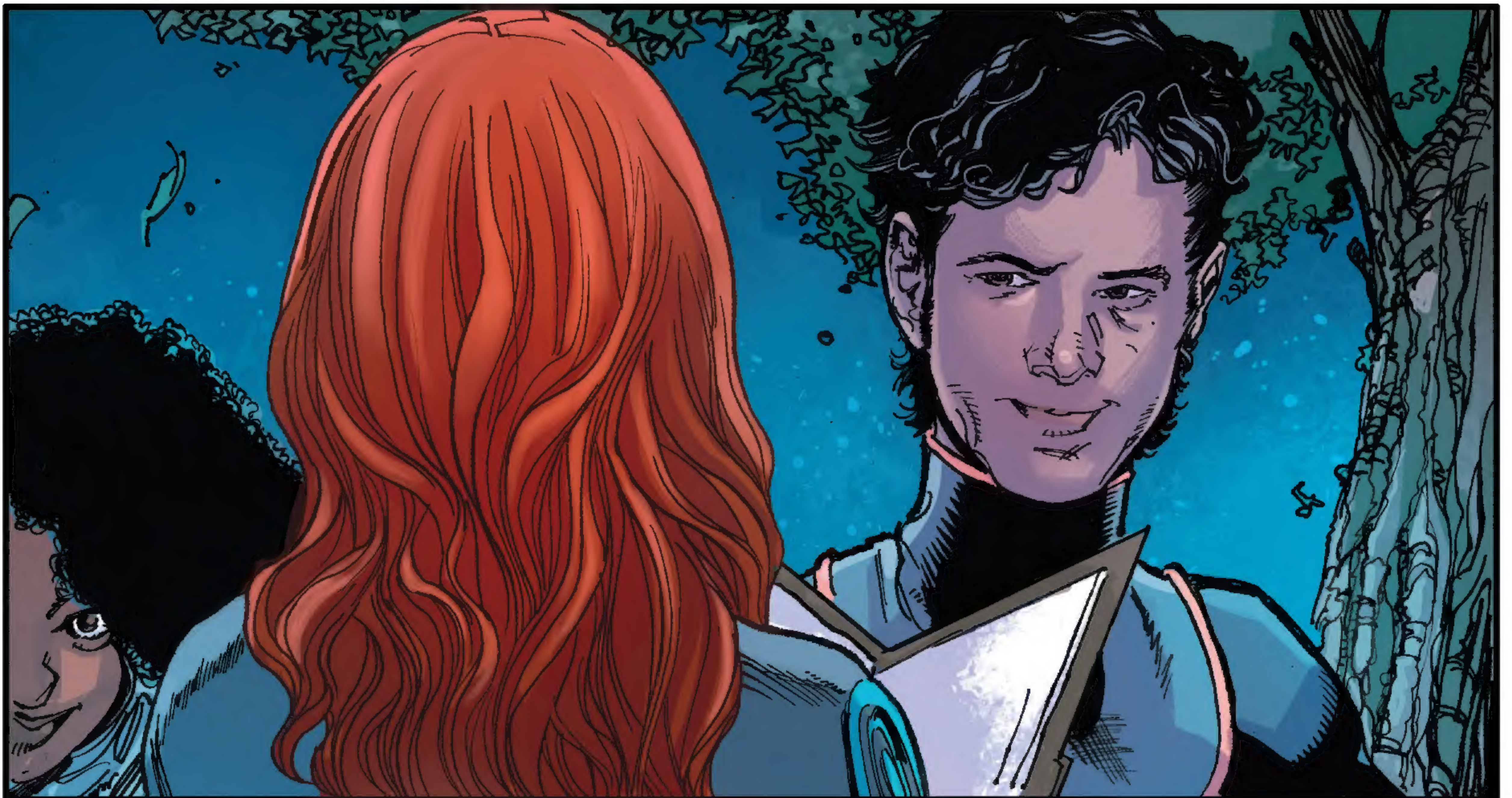
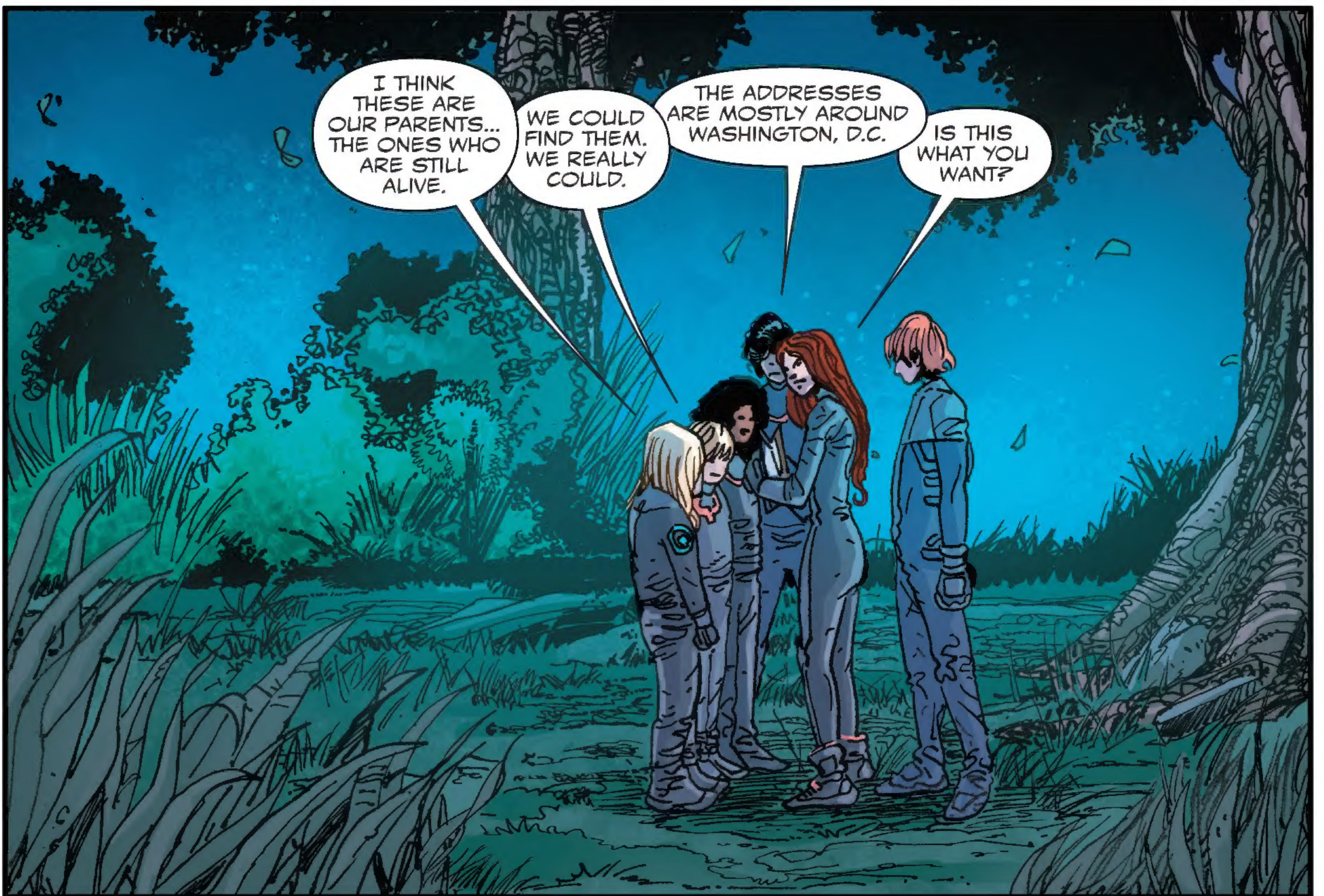


THEY'RE...




THEY'RE...  
ADDRESSES.









WE DIDN'T WIN.  
WE DIDN'T GET  
ANSWERS.

WE DON'T KNOW WHY WE  
WERE MADE, OR WHAT JEB WILL  
DO NEXT. WE DON'T UNDERSTAND  
OUR POWERS, OR THE MICROCHIP,  
OR THE VOICE IN MY HEAD...

AND I  
DON'T  
CARE.

JEB  
PROMISED  
I WAS GOING  
TO SAVE THE  
WORLD.

BUT MY  
FAMILY? MY  
FLOCK?

THEY'RE  
MY WORLD.

END.  
FOR NOW.



JAMES PATTERSON

# MAX RIDE



# WILL RETURN!



